

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant requests acknowledgement of the Information Disclosure Statement filed December 6, 2005. A duplicate copy of the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

As a further preliminary matter, claim 17 is amended to delete "said" from the claim in order to provide proper antecedent basis for the "external equipment." For this reason, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Botchek (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0052045 A1). In response, Applicant amended independent claims 1 and 13 to further clarify that the second connector is directly connected to a connection line between the interface conversion circuit and the memory card device, and respectfully traverses the rejection on this basis.

Botchek is directed to a hard disk storage device that incorporates a dedicated user interface. The Examiner asserts that the disk drive 30 of Botchek has a first connector (one end of the cable 34) and a card board 32 having a second connector (the other end of the cable, which the Examiner identifies as cable 32 but Applicant believes corresponds to cable 34).

The Examiner further identifies the bridge controller 32 as corresponding to an interface conversion circuit of the present application, and flash ROM 48 and RAM 50 corresponding to a memory card device of the present application. However, the other end of the cable 34, which the Examiner considers as a second connector is not directly

connected to a connection line between the interface conversion circuit and the memory card device. The other end of the cable 34 is connected to a drive interface 44, which connects to a CPU 42. The CPU 42 has respective CPU buses 56 that connect to the flash ROM 48 and RAM 50, respectively. Accordingly, Botchek fails to disclose a second connector that is directly connected to a connection line between the interface conversion circuit and a memory card device.

In contrast, as shown in FIG. 1 of the present application, a second connector 160 is directly connected to a connection line 170 that is located between an interface conversion circuit 140 and a memory card device 110, 120. Since Botchek fails to disclose or suggest a second connector as now defined in the amended claims, withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 13-14, 16-19, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kiyoshi (JP2001-022899) in view of Ryoichi (JP2002-288964). In response, Applicant traverses the rejection because the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a second connector that is directly connected to a connection line between an interface conversion circuit and a memory card device.

Kiyoshi is directed to a drive device for a disk and memory card. On page 6 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Kiyoshi has a card board 51, an interface conversion circuit 56, a memory card device 41, 42, and a connection line 58, 59. The Examiner further asserts on page 9, third paragraph of the outstanding Office Action that Ryoichi teaches first and second connectors for a first interface. However,

assuming *arguendo* that one could replace the first and second connectors 8 of Ryoichi in Kiyoshi, then the first and second connectors would connect the disk drive unit 21 to the drive circuit 53. Accordingly, the second connector would not be directly connected to the connection line 58, 59 as now recited in the amended claims. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-10, 13-14, 16-19, and 22 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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